

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 have been examined. With this amendment, Applicants add claims 24-31. An Excess Claim Fee Payment Letter is enclosed. Claims 1-31 are all the claims pending in the application. The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 8 and 9 and objected to claims 2, 4-7 and 10-23.

I. Formalities

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for foreign priority and confirming receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for initialing and returning a copy of the form PTO-1449 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 21, 2000.

Finally, Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that the Formal Drawings filed on November 21, 2000 are accepted.

II. Objections to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification because it allegedly does not contain an Abstract of the Disclosure as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.72(b). With this amendment, Applicants are submitting a replacement sheet containing an Abstract of the Disclosure. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

III. Informalities noted without Objection

The Examiner has noted without objection that claim 18 contains the adverb approximately and that claim 1, when read without undue study, is allegedly subject to

misinterpretation. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 18 to address the informalities noted by the Examiner.

IV. Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 8, 9 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants submit that the modifications to these claims obviate the rejection. In addition, Applicants have made modifications to claims 1-21 in order to improve the clarity and precision of language.

V. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1, 3, 8 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and that claims 2, 4-7 and 10-23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants submit that the claim modifications overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejections to claims 1, 3, 8 and 9. Accordingly, Applicants submit that all the claims are in condition for allowance.

In the reasons for allowance, the Examiner contends that Li (US 6,549,587) and Williamson, III (US 5,369,711) disclose features that allegedly correspond to some of the language used in claim 1. Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's contentions since the analysis was out of context and, therefore, inaccurate because the inter-relationships

within the claim elements, which would play a role in the interpretations of the claim terms, were not analyzed.

VI. New Claims

With this Amendment, Applicants add claims 24-31. Applicants submit that these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency, as well as the features set forth therein.

VII. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Bhaskar Kakarla
Registration No. 54,627

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: October 19, 2004